

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1059

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Cornel West upon his lifetime achievements and welcome him to the great State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cornel West is one such estimable citizen deserving of such acclaim; and

WHEREAS, an American philosopher, author, critic, actor, and civil rights activist, Dr. Cornel West currently serves as the Class of 1943 University Professor at Princeton University, where he teaches in the Center for African American Studies and in the Department of Religion; and

WHEREAS, Dr. West is well known for his combination of political and moral insight and criticism and his contribution to the post-1960s civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, one of America's most provocative public intellectuals, Dr. Cornel West has been a champion for racial justice since childhood; his writing, speaking, and teaching weave together the traditions of the Black Baptist Church, progressive politics, and jazz; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Dr. West burst onto the national scene with his best-selling book, *Race Matters*, a searing analysis of racism in American democracy, that has become a contemporary classic, selling more than half a million copies to date; and

WHEREAS, in his long-awaited life story, *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud, A Memoir*, Dr. West offers a compelling exploration of his heart behind the human mind; he has additionally published nineteen other books and has edited thirteen texts; and

WHEREAS, an influential force in developing the storyline for the popular *Matrix* movie trilogy, Dr. West has served as the trilogy's official spokesperson and played a recurring role in the final two films; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his other published works, Dr. West has published two albums, *Sketches of My Culture* and *Street Knowledge*, which highlight his belief that growing divisions in our society foster the despair and distrust that undermine our democratic process; and

WHEREAS, by working to create an ongoing dialogue between the myriad of voices in our culture, Dr. West is vigilant in his efforts to restore hope to America; and

WHEREAS, a *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard University with a Ph.D. from Princeton, Dr. Cornel West is a mesmerizing speaker, dynamic philosopher, and enlightened activist; and

WHEREAS, with astute intellect and ferocious moral vision, Dr. Cornel West continuously challenges modern thought with great efficacy, and his effect on our State and Nation is immeasurable; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Dr. Cornel West for his life's work in examining the nature of democracy, race, philosophy, and religion and extend to him a warm welcome to the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.